

**The Listing of Claims:**

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-28. (cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~treating an inflammatory condition in a mammal~~ preventing a relapse in a mammal with chronic, relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis, comprising[[:]]:

orally administering an interferon tau (IFN $\tau$ ) to said mammal in an amount ~~that does not cause a significant depression in blood lymphocytes~~ effective to prevent a relapse of the chronic, relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis, and

continuing to administer the IFN $\tau$  over an extended period of time.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the IFN $\tau$  is orally-administered at a dosage of greater than about  $1 \times 10^5$  units per day.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the IFN $\tau$  is orally-administered at a dosage of greater than about  $1 \times 10^6$  units per day.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said IFN $\tau$  has an amino acid sequence homology of at least about 70% with an ovine IFN $\tau$  (OvIFN $\tau$ ) amino acid sequence.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said IFN $\tau$  has a sequence homology of at least about 80% with an ovine IFN $\tau$  sequence represented as SEQ ID NO:2.

34-36. (cancelled).